

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT OF 16- TO 19-YEAR-OLDS

Key Findings: Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, United Kingdom, United States

Whereas a large majority of 16- and 17-year-olds in G8 countries were enrolled in secondary education, more 19-year-olds were enrolled in higher education than in secondary education in all of the G8 countries shown except for Germany.

A large majority of 16- and 17-year-olds in the United States and the other six countries presented were enrolled in secondary education in 2001 (figure 13). For each country, at least 80 percent of its 16-year-old population was enrolled in secondary education, with the United States reporting a secondary enrollment rate of 88 percent. More than 90 percent of 16-year-olds in Canada, France, Germany, and Japan were enrolled in secondary education. Among 17-year-olds, the secondary enrollment rate in the United States was 75 percent, which was higher than only one other country shown, the United Kingdom (72 percent). The secondary enrollment rates of 17-year-olds were above 90 percent in Canada, Germany, and Japan. Only very small percentages of 17-year-olds were enrolled in higher education, with no country reporting more than 4 percent of this population enrolled in higher education.

In some G8 countries, the enrollment rate of 18-year-olds in secondary education was much higher than the 18-year-olds' enrollment rate in higher education. For example, Germany and Italy had 80 and 65 percent, respectively, of their 18-year-

old population enrolled in secondary school, whereas 3 and 4 percent, respectively, of 18-year-olds were enrolled in higher education. In other countries, however, enrollment in secondary school drops off sharply beginning at age 18. Canada is an example of this: 95 percent of its 17-year-old population was enrolled in secondary education, whereas 1 percent of its 18-year-old population was enrolled in secondary education. In many of the G8 countries, enrollment in higher education becomes more pronounced at the age of 18. For example, the United Kingdom and the United States had 31 and 23 percent, respectively, of their 18-year-old population enrolled in secondary school, and 24 and 39 percent, respectively, of this population enrolled in higher education. The higher education enrollment rate of 18-year-olds in the United States was highest among the countries shown.

At the age of 19, more individuals were enrolled in higher education than in secondary education in all of the countries shown except for Germany. Students in Germany, however, graduate from academic secondary programs at age 19 (Graduation age is lower for students in nonacademic programs. See the appendix for more information on the education system in Germany.) Among 19-year-olds, secondary enrollment rates ranged from 2 percent in Canada to 39 percent in Germany, and higher education enrollment rates ranged from 9 percent in Germany to 47 percent in the United States.

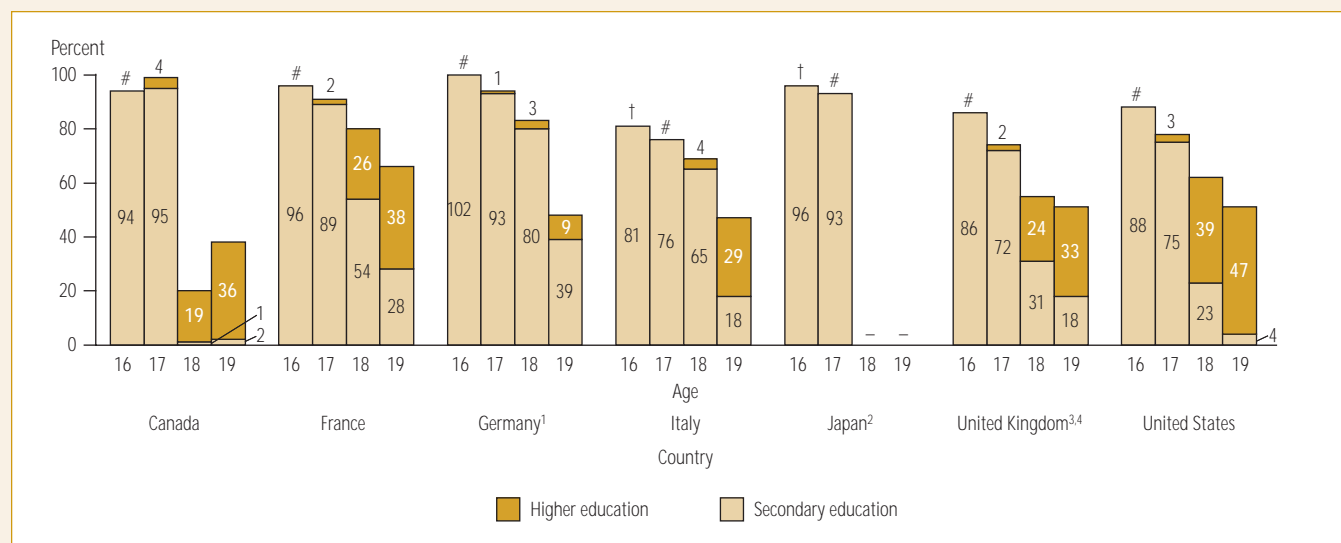
Definitions and Methodology

Higher education includes postsecondary tertiary education (ISCED levels 5A, 5B, and 6). With the exception of the United Kingdom, higher education enrollment numbers exclude postsecondary nontertiary programs (ISCED level 4). For a complete description of the ISCED levels, see the appendix.

The percentage of the population at given ages enrolled in education is called an "enrollment rate." In this indicator, the

term enrollment rate refers to "net enrollment rate" and is defined as the number of students in a particular age group enrolled in education divided by the population of that same age group. Enrollments include all full-time and part-time students in public and private institutions, ages 16, 17, 18, and 19 in 2001. Enrollment rates may exceed 100 percent for some countries and some age categories due to different reference dates for school enrollment and population data.

Figure 13. Percentage of the population ages 16 to 19 enrolled in public and private secondary and higher education, by age and country: 2001



—Not available. Data not available for 18- and 19-year-olds in Japan.

†Not applicable. The enrollment estimate does not apply to 16-year-olds in higher education in Italy and Japan.

#Rounds to zero. The enrollment estimate rounds to zero for 16-year-olds in higher education in Canada, France, Germany, the United Kingdom, and the United States, and for 17-year-olds in higher education in Italy and Japan.

¹The secondary enrollment rate in Germany exceeds 100 percent for 16-year-olds due to different reference dates for school enrollment and population data.

²Estimates are provided for enrollment by age in secondary and higher education on the assumption that all students at the same grade are of the same age. A part-time student equals one full-time-equivalent at this level.

³The United Kingdom includes England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales.

⁴Secondary enrollment numbers for the United Kingdom include postsecondary nontertiary programs.

NOTE: Reference year is 2001 for all countries; however, reference dates may differ within 2001. Education levels are defined according to the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED). Secondary refers to ISCED levels 2 and 3 (lower secondary and upper secondary). Postsecondary nontertiary education refers to ISCED level 4. Higher education refers to ISCED level 5A (academic higher education—first stage), 5B (technical and vocational higher education), and 6 (academic higher education—second stage/ doctoral studies) except where otherwise noted. For more information on ISCED levels, see the appendix.

SOURCE: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), 2003, unpublished data.